

115 p/Conrad

In the children's hearts no stirrings
that to them be horious brought;
We are beginning at - amazement to ponder some of
the sayings about children: that these are the first
in the kingdoms of heaven; that these angels do
ever behold the face of god: & that it were better
for a man that a millstone were hung
about his neck who was cast into the depths
of the sea than that he should offend a child.
This gospel of the higher estate of childhood is
only beginning to dawn upon us, & whether we
are to come to a full knowledge of the truth
depends. I think, on the use we make of such
light as we have gained. And here we are
walking blindfold amongst pitfalls many.
With mere glimmerings of light on our way. In
this child worship is, after all, no more than
a movement - in one direction of the
cult - of humanity - which is stirring us
all, which may lead us to the apprehension

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the evolution of being. This added to his own
charm of innocence shows daily unex-
pected traits of grace, delicacy, refinement, & the
recognised regard for us as family characteristics.
This peculiar tenderness in the children is to
be expected if we look upon them as redeemed
beings. We cannot too much appreciate &
rejoice in the sweetness beauty of natural children
& parents now need, to be come pride in traits
of courage, courtesy, grace, which they all
belong to their children by right of descent.
But here, it seems to me, it is necessary
to enter a protest. This tendency to admiring
what there is in the children as human
beings, & what there is in man as serious
& good stock, may incline us to let
them alone more than is wholesome. We
all know of families in which the
children practically bring themselves up. The

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To divine Son of man. I may condone in the
sterile places where the Positivist sits, without
God in the world. Literature, history, biography,
art, science, charity herself, & in ^{nature.. little} largest
magnify ~~humanity~~, no matter at what
cost. And now wonder that this endeavour should
lead to the study setting forth of human
nature & its loveliest - in the persons of the
children.

The character novel has had its full share
in fostering this tendency to amateur art.
Miranda we all know from our most pleasant
& helpful writer who has given us charming
studies of lovely family life, & who by
perhaps been the strongest of the influences
at work in moulding the 'nice' people
of one or two generations. How her
people enjoy one another! how they
appreciate every delicate turn of character,
with refinement! One feels prompted

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in the company of such pleasant
appreciative people, like the man whose
eyes we opened, we look about for delightful
traits of meekness, sweetness, devotion,
in the people belonging to us. It is good &
wholesome to admire, & no doubt the
world is the better for having had its eyes
opened to beauty of character in unexpected
places.

The mother above all others sits down
to a perpetual feast: of this or that bird
is lovely in the p.m. up, how much
more lovely the spontaneous outgoing
of the child! All childhood is lovely, unless
as it is marred by the heedlessness
or the wickedness of its guardians.
How lovely is the child ~~so~~ ^{born} who inherits
strength & sweetness from by inheritance
& has delighted to the mother to watch

What - feel - I from my father?

Lusty lip, vigorous will;

What - from my gentle mother?

Cheerful days, & poets still:-

Says father: ~~these~~ poets are born, not made;
& yet the most-of-them they are from their
parents. But it did not take a poet-

~~a~~ ~~wonder~~ to discover this:
people ~~ever~~ have known it true and
opined. Like father, like child; - they said,
~~ever~~ satisfied, for it was not the way
in earlier days to thresh out the fresh
facts of life. Now-a-days we talk about it
& about it, call it - heredity, state it into
count in our motions at any rate, if not in
our practice. Nobody writes a biography now
without attempting to produce ~~antecedents~~
early surroundings that shall account for his

It is at once a divine law, with the promise
of great reward, & an instrument put into
the hands of parents to enable them on this
almost divine function of moulding character.
It is most delightful to the grace of God: it is
the grace of God, as truly as sunshine,
spring flowers, children's faces, manifest
that grace. And what is more, it is only the
Christian parent who works this law to its
perfect issues. Others try, laboriously &
methodically, but they surely overlook a leak
somewhere which lets in the flood & sinks
the vessel. Perhaps the reason why many
Christian people don't reach a higher standard
of perfection is because they do not understand
its ~~set~~-purposes. This instrument for the modelling
of character which has been put in their hands
that if we neglect to use it for ourselves,
we will for our children; at any rate, others
will.